

Remarks

Claims 20 and 37 have been amended without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the amendment can be found in the Applicants' specification, for example, in Fig. 5.

The Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner Interview on August 18, 2011 between the Examiner and the Applicants' representative, Lisa Lint. Amendment of Claims 20 and 37 to recite that the "tapered portion of the cavity is filled with a portion" of the flexible polymer envelope or biocompatible fabric envelope was discussed. The Examiner agreed that this amendment overcame the rejections of record over Songer, which requires the cable to flex to minimize stress.

Claim 37 is rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Specifically, the rejection states that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the "portion of the flexible polymer envelope." Claim 37 has been amended to recite a "biocompatible fabric envelope." Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 20, 22, 23, 25-29, 31-34 and 38 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jahng in view of Baumgartner and Songer. Claims 30, 35, 36 and 37 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jahng in view of Baumgartner and Songer, in further view of Mazel, Freudiger, Sherman or and Trieu.

The Applicants respectfully submit that, in light of the amendment of Claims 20 and 37, that the rejected claims are not obvious in view of the cited combinations of documents. As noted on page 10 of the Official Action and in the Examiner Interview, Songer is explicitly designed to allow the cable to flex in the tapered portion of the cavity in order to minimize stress. The design of Songer expressly teaches against a device wherein the "tapered portion of the cavity is filled with a portion" of the flexible polymer envelope or biocompatible fabric envelope. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that, as noted in the Official Action, Songer is not applicable to the rejected claims as amended.

The Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of all of the outstanding rejections under §103, each of which relies on Songer.

In light of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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